

Remarks

The following comments are provided in support of the claims presented.

1. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gerhard et al (US 5,172,485).

Applicants have herein amended Claim 1 to recite that the high-compliance deflection element is "ring-shaped." Support for this amendment can be found in Figs. 1 and 2, and in the second paragraph on page 8. This amendment adds no new matter.

Applicants urge that the amendment presented herein is sufficient to overcome the § 102 rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 12-14 since Gerhard et al does not disclose any "ring-shaped high-compliance deflection element." Furthermore, Gerhard et al does not teach or suggest any device having a "ring-shaped high-compliance deflection element."

2. § 103 Rejections

Claims 7-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Gerhard et al in view of Feichtinger (US 4,095,903).

Applicants have herein amended Claim 1 to recite that the high-compliance deflection element is "ring-shaped." Neither Gerhard et al or Feichtinger teach or suggest the use of any "ring-shaped high-compliance deflection element." Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment presented herein to Claim 1 is sufficient to overcome the § 103 rejection of Claims 7-11.

3. Allowable Claims

The Office has indicated that Claims 3-6 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that it is not necessary to write any of Claims 3-6 in independent form in view of the allowability of amended Claim 1.

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Conclusion


Applicants have responded to each and every rejection and objection, and urge that the Application is in condition for allowance. A favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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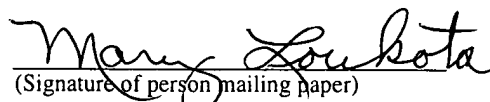
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